

Hurricane Irene continues to approach the east coast, and although its path remains uncertain, there is a chance that it could make landfall in or near New Jersey. I encourage you and your family to monitor the storm's progress closely and to take steps to ensure your safety.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers the following guidance:

- **Stay informed of the latest forecast** – the National Hurricane Center continues to be the official source for Hurricane Irene forecasts and updates, which you can find at

www.hurricanes.gov

or on your phone at

<http://hurricanes.gov/mobile>

. If the storm approaches your community, your local National Weather Service forecast office is the best place to find any severe weather watches/warnings for your area (

www.weather.gov

or on your phone at

<http://mobile.weather.gov>

).

- **Know your evacuation plan** – contact your [local emergency management office](#) to find out if you live in an evacuation zone and what the proper route would be if evacuation orders are given by local officials.

- **Have your emergency kit ready** – make sure [your emergency kit](#) is capable of sustaining your family members (

[including pets](#)

) for at least 72 hours. Remember to include important documents, prescription medications, and other essentials for children and pets.

- **Review and practice your family's emergency plan** – make sure family members know how they will get in touch after a disaster, or where safe meeting locations are both in town and out-of-town. For more tips on making your family's emergency plan,

[visit Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov)

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Further information is available on [FEMA's website](#) . New Jersey-specific information is

available from the
[Emergency Management](#)

[New Jersey Office of](#)

Central New Jerseyans Graduate from U.S. Military Academies

It is a pleasure to announce the 2011 graduates of the U.S. Military Service Academies from the 12th Congressional District of New Jersey. These young men and women are serving their nation with distinction, and we are proud that they call New Jersey home.

U.S. Air Force Academy: Michael Alonso of Morganville and Joshua Ku of North Brunswick

U.S. Military Academy: Sahm Cho of Manalapan, Kenneth Hettler of Holmdel, Kayla Kahn of Manalapan, and Ross Trampler of Jackson

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: Robert Atkinson of Fair Haven

U.S. Naval Academy: James Kelly of Cranbury and Jared Williams of Pennington

How to Apply for a Military Service Academy Nomination

If you are a high school student or recent graduate who would like to serve our country as a military officer, I encourage you to consider attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, or the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. These all require a nomination from a federal representative. I nominate students on a competitive basis, relying on the recommendations of my Academy Selection Committee and using criteria determined by the Academies to indicate one's potential for success.

You may find more information about the appointment process and a nomination application [on my website](#)

. The deadline for applications for nominations for the upcoming academic year is 6:00 p.m. on October 3, 2011.